

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-21 (Canceled)

Claim 22 (New): A method for portion cutting a food item, comprising the steps of:

cutting the food item into parts at a first cutting stage;
cutting the parts into pieces of predetermined weight and dimension at a second cutting stage;

scanning at least one of a shape, a structure and a dimension of the food item at the first cutting stage by a measuring means; and

determining a portion-cutting profile in connection with said scanning and on the basis of predetermined dimension and/or weight of the pieces by a processor means.

23 (New): A method for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 22, whereby said determining said portion-cutting profile comprises the step of planning the whole of a cutting sequence.

24 (New): A method for portion cutting a food item as set forth

in claim 22, whereby at least a part of said portion-cutting profile is carried out in said first cutting stage.

25 (New): A method for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

feeding the item into a first cutting device, in which device the item is cut into strips in a cutting unit;

transferring the strips from the first cutting device to one or more additional cutting devices; and

cutting in the one or more additional cutting devices, in which the strips are cut into pieces of predetermined shape.

26 (New): A method for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 25, whereby other scanning of the shape, structure and/or dimension of the strips is performed in the one or more additional cutting devices.

27 (New): A method for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 25, whereby a feeding direction of said one or more additional cutting devices is different from that of said first cutting device.

28 (New): A method for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 25, whereby at least a part of said portion-cutting

profile is communicated further to one or more of the additional cutting devices.

29 (New): A method for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 25, wherein the feeding directions for two or more additional cutting devices lie substantially parallel with one another.

30 (New): A method for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 25, wherein a feeding direction for the one or more additional cutting devices lies substantially at right-angles to a feeding direction for the first cutting device.

31 (New): A method for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 25, further comprising the step of manually placing the food item in the first cutting device and/or manually transferring the strips to one or more of the additional cutting devices.

32 (New): A method for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 25, further comprising the step of non-manually placing the food item in the first cutting device and/or non-manually transferring the strips to one or more of the additional cutting devices.

33 (New): An apparatus for portion cutting a food item comprising:

a first cutting device which comprises a cutting unit for cutting the food item into strips; and

one or more additional cutting devices, each comprising a cutting unit for cutting the strips into pieces of predetermined weight and dimensions, wherein measuring means are arranged in the first cutting device for scanning at least one of a shape, a structure and a dimension of the food item, and wherein said apparatus further comprises processor means with a control program for the planning of a portion-cutting profile on the basis of said scanning.

34 (New): An apparatus for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 33, wherein said processor means are arranged to plan the whole of a cutting sequence, and thereby establish said portion-cutting profile.

35 (New): An apparatus for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 33, wherein said first cutting device is adapted to carry out at least a part of said portion-cutting profile.

36 (New): An apparatus for portion cutting a food item as set

forth in claim 33, wherein further measuring means are arranged in said one or more additional cutting devices for scanning at least one of a shape, a structure and a dimension of said strips.

37 (New): An apparatus for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 33, wherein the processor means are arranged to send at least a part of the portion cutting profile further to the one or more additional cutting devices.

38 (New): An apparatus for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 33, which further comprises transfer means for transferring one or more of the strips from the first cutting device to the one or more additional cutting devices.

39 (New): An apparatus for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 33, which further comprises placing means for placing the food item in the first cutting device.

40 (New): An apparatus for portion cutting a food item as set forth in claim 33, wherein a feeding direction of said one or more additional cutting devices is different from that of said first cutting device.